

## REMARKS

### 1. Background

Claims 1-87 were pending.

In the Office Action, the pending claims were determined to be directed to the following patentably distinct species of the disclosed invention:

Species A: a catheter connection system as depicted in Figures 1-9 as including a cylindrical shaft and a connection stem with a single barb having a barrier wall at the shoulder thereof that is perpendicular to the longitudinal axis of the connection stem;

Species B: a catheter connection system depicted in Figures 10-10A as including a frustoconical shaft and a pair of barbs having barrier walls at the shoulders thereof that are other than perpendicular to the longitudinal axis of the connection stem;

Species C: a catheter connection system depicted in Figure 11 as including a Species A connection system used in the context of a catheter repair kit; and

Species D: a catheter connection system depicted in Figures 12-13 as including a Species A connection system used in the context of an implantable vascular access port.

Accordingly, applicants have been required under 35 U.S.C. § 121 to elect a single of the disclosed species for prosecution on the merits.

2. Response to the Species Election Request

In response, Applicants provisionally elect for prosecution on the merits the Species A embodiment of the disclosed technology depicted in Figures 1-9. There the elected species can be seen to comprise a catheter connection system that includes a connection stem with a cylindrical shaft and a single barb having a barrier wall at the shoulder thereof that is perpendicular to the longitudinal axis of the connection stem.

The following claims are respectfully submitted to be readable on the elected species illustrated in Figures 1-9.

Claims 1-4, 9-14, 18, 20, 22-34, 37-39, 41, 42, 45-57, 62, 63, 68-75, and 78-87.

In addition, the following claims are respectfully submitted to be generic to all of the four (4) identified species of the invention:

Claims 1, 2, 9, 14, 20, 23-26, 37, 38, 41, 42, and 45-48.

3. Conclusion

Accordingly, it is submitted that an examination on the merits of Claims 1-4, 9-14, 18, 20, 22-34, 37-39, 41, 42, 45-57, 62, 63, 68-75, and 78-87 is now in order, and such examination is hereby requested.

In the event that the Examiner finds any remaining impediment to a prompt allowance of this application which could be resolved by a telephonic interview, the Examiner is respectfully requested to initiate the same with the undersigned attorney.

DATED this 18<sup>th</sup> day of May, 2004.

Respectfully submitted,



KENT S. BURNINGHAM  
Attorney for Applicant  
Registration No. 30,453

TRASKBRITT, PC  
230 South 500 East, Suite 300  
Salt Lake City, Utah 84102 USA  
Telephone: (801) 532-1922  
Toll Free: (800) 900-2001  
Facsimile: (801) 531-9168

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